Potential of Defence Industry

4208. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the huge potential in the defence industry has not been fully tapped;

(b) whether Government proposes to take any step to tap the potential in defence industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The potential in the Defence Industry is utilized to meet the requirements of Armed Forces.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Efforts are made to fully tap the potential in Defence industry by also catering to the requirements of the Civil Sector like the State Police & Para-military Forces and through exports.

Performance of Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.

4209. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. has improved its performance over the past, and whether it was incurring losses earlier to this;

(b) which are the main customers including defence and what is the ratio of orders between these two in terms of value of orders; and

(c) whether the unit propose to diversify in other sectors and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) has been a profit making company ever since its inception. Profit Before Tax (PBT) for the last 5 years is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

					(Provisional)
Year	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
PBT	2.72	23.60	10.65	13.01	31.26

(b) Other than the defence sector, the main customers of BEML include Coal India Limited, Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Steel Authority of India Limited, Cement companies, etc. As per the Provisional figures, 38% or the orders for the year 2002-2003 was contributed by the defence sector.

(c) Plans have been drawn to diversify into the infrastructure sectors like road construction, port modernization, mining sector etc. by developing specialized equipment required for these sectors. The Company has also diversified into manufacture of high tech metro rail coaches.

Communal Incidents in Gujarat

4210. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of communal incidents have taken place in Gujarat even after the assumption of the new Government:

(b) if so, the number and extent of damages and other details arising thereof;

(c) whether Government have advised the State Government to stop the recurrence of such incidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) No major communal incident has been reported in Gujarat after the assumption of the new Government there. However, some sporadic incidents mostly of localized nature oln individual/ petty issues were reported.

(c) and (d) The Union Government issues alert messages and advisories to the State Government from time to time on the basis of inputs received in this regard.

Firing by Pakistani Troops for Disrupting Border Fencing Work

4211. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleassed to state:

(a) the number of occasions since January 1, 2003 when Pakistani troops resorted to firing along international border to disrupt ongoing border fencing work in Jammu and Kashmir sector;

(b) the extent of loss of life and property sustained by Indian side in this firing; and